MARVEL COMICS
2099
16
GHOST RIDER
2099 A.D.
DIRECT EDITION
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INSIDE MAX SYNERGY'S NIGHTCLUB, ST. VITUS DANCETERIA...
THERE'S A NEW KID IN TRANSVERSE CITY.
CALL HER HEARTBREAKER --
BACK OFF, PLISBAG!
-- AND KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF.
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
DANGEROUS CURVES
LEN KANDINSKY words
ASHLEY WOOD pictures
HOWARD SIMMONS and CONNIE HART lettering
CHRISTIE SCHEELE colors
JOEY CAVALIERI editor
BOBBIE CHASE chief
VIOLENT NUGS Malibu computer coloring

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NICE ANATOMY YOU GOT THERE.
BE A SHAME TO HAVE TO PUT DAYLIGHT THROUGH IT.
YOUR GUN ISN'T BIG ENOUGH TO MESS WITH ME, GHOST RIDER.
YOU WANNA RIP? C'MON!
CHIKEEEK
SHIK
LIKE THE BLADES.
FRACTAL EDGES, RIGHT??
BET THEY WORK GREAT ON MEAT.
SPANGK
ZIK
SPAK
ZREEK

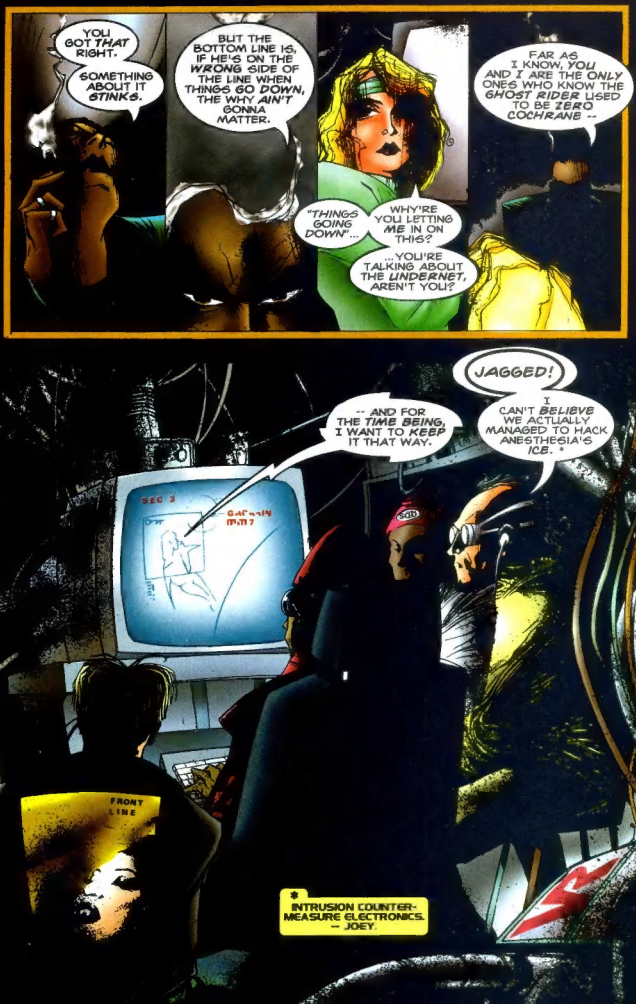
WANT A DEADP GET OUT OF MY WAY.
SYNERGY OWES ME A LIFE. I'M TAKING HIS!
AIN'T HAPPENIN'.
I GOT BIZ WITH THE MAN. I NEED HIM BREATHING.
JAM YOUR BIZ!
YOU DON'T HAVE CLUE ONE WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE --
-- HOW LONG I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM --
-- WHAT HE DID TO ME!
'S RIGHT.
AND I
DON'T
CARE.
SKA BLAM
SKA BLAM

I'M THE LAW.
I CALL THE SHOTS.
YOU DON'T TOUCH THE MAN.
YOU GOT THA--
HNNNG
SQUARK
THAKANGK
SON OF A GLITCH...

YOU'RE TOUGHER THAN I FIGURED.
MAKES TWO OF US, COW-BOY.
NO ONE EVER GOT BACK UP FROM THAT HEART-PUNCH BEFORE...
SNAK KLITCH
KTHRVRRRR
GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO GO EASY ON YOU ANY-MORE.
HGGK

BARCODE
I'M GONNA CUT TO THE CHASE.
THERE'S SOME BAD, BAD STUFF GOIN' DOWN IN THIS TOWN, AND YOU'RE HIP-DEEP IN IT, KYLIE.
I GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, ANESTHESIA.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT SCRAP, CHICA.
YOU'RE NOT HALF AS BIMBOID AS YOU GET YOUR BOYTOYS TO THINK.
...HE WAS DEAD... THEN I THOUGHT MAYBE HE WASN'T...
...NOW HE IS AGAIN... I THINK...
FOUND THAT WHILE I WAS TRYIN' TO GET SEBG BACK TOGETHER AFTER THE MESS SHIELD LEFT HIM IN AND KNEW WE HAD TO TALK.
BIP
Uhm, TALK? ABOUT WHAT?
'BOUT HOW MUCH OF ZERO COCHRANE IS STILL LEFT INSIDE THAT THING THEY CALL THE GHOST RIDER --
-- AND WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO ABOUT HIM.
IT'S REALLY TRUE, THEN.

YEP.
HE INFO-DUMPED ME ALL ABOUT IT.
SHOCKIN' CREEP!
HE DIDN'T TELL ME... I HAD TO FIGURE IT MYSELF.
AND EVEN THEN, I WASN'T SURE.
PROBABLY 'CUZ HE DIN'T NEED ANYTHING FROM YOU.
THAT BOY NEVER DID THINK ABOUT ANY-BODY BUT HIMSELF.
USED TO BE, YEAH.
BUT... THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, I GOT THE FEELING HE'D CHANGED SOMEHOW.
NOT FOR THE BETTER, YOU ASK ME.
"FEDERAL MARSHAL", MY BUTT.
YEAH, I DON'T UNDER-STAND THAT EITHER.
I'D NEVER HAVE FIGURED HIM FOR THROWING IN WITH THE SECURI-COPS.


YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
SOMETHING ABOUT IT STINKS.
BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS, IF HE'S ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LINE WHEN THINGS GO DOWN, THE WHY AIN'T GONNA MATTER.
"THINGS GOING DOWN"...
WHY'RE YOU LETTING ME IN ON THIS?
...YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE UNDERNET, AREN'T YOU?
FAR AS I KNOW, YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THE GHOST RIDER USED TO BE ZERO COCHRANE --
-- AND FOR THE TIME BEING, I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
JAGGED!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO HACK ANESTHESIA'S ICE. *
SEC 3
FRONT LINE
* INTRUSION COUNTER-MEASURE ELECTRONICS. — JOEY.

WHAT'D I TELL YOU?
THE LINDERNET'S GETTING READY TO MOVE, AND WE GOT THE INSIDE BUZZ!
WE GOT JACK.
WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, NADA.
ARE YOU KIDDING?! WE JUST FOUND OUT THE GHOST RIDER'S REAL HANDLE!
TELL ME THAT AIN'T SERIOUSLY HOT DATA!
'SPLAINS A LOT.
KNEW THERE HADTA BE SOMETHING BETWEEN THEM, WHY HE WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE FOR KYLIE *---
-- AN' WHY SHE'S BEEN WEIRD ABOUT HIM EVER SINCE.
GR '99 #6-8 — JOEY
LISTEN DR. NEON!"... WHOEVER KNOWS THAT HAS WHAT IT TAKES --
-- TO BRING HIM DOWN...
AN' WITH HIM HISTORICAL... MAYBE I'LL HAVE A CHANCE WITH KYLIE...
A WOOD JOB

SCHKTHRVRR
PISSBAG!
FOR
THIS...
YOU'LL
PAY
AAUGHK
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME!

'S NOT MEAT, METAL?! LIKE ME?
DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE ANY OTHERS...
IT'S RUINED!
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT!
YOUR... YOUR FACE...
YOU CAN HAVE SYNERGY TODAY.
BUT I'LL BE BACK FOR [redacted] HEART --
-- AND YOURS!
WAIT --
-- PLEASE --
-- I WANNA KNOW --
AW, SCRAP...
JAMMIT, SHE'S FAST.

CAN'T THINK ABOUT IT NOW. HAFTA FOCUS ON THE JOB I CAME TO DO.
WE NEED WORDS, SYNERGY!
I ASSUME YOU'RE HERE IN YOUR NEW CAPACITY AS LAW OFFICER --
-- PROBABLY IN RELATION TO MY DISTRIBUTION OF THE SYNTHETIC NEURO-TRANSMITTER CALLED WHITE HEAT.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
I'M PUTTING YOU ON NOTICE THAT THAT BIZ IS OVER.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ACCOMMODATE YOU ON THAT.
THE SOCIAL EXPERIMENT I DESIGNED IT FOR IS [illegible] FROM COMPLETE.
EXPERIMENT?!
SINCE THE TWENCEN, THERE'S BEEN DOZENS OF METHODS OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT DISCOVERED.
NEARLY ALL OF THEM, HOWEVER, WERE EITHER IRREPRODUCIBLE ACCIDENTS OR NOT COST-EFFECTIVE FOR LARGE GROUPS.
WHITE HEAT IS THE FIRST TRULY PROLETARIAN MEANS OF CREATING SUPER-HUMANS.

YEAH, AND LOOMIT 'EM!
IT'S A SHOCKIN' WARZONE OUT THERE!
WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT, FOR THEM ALL TO PUT ON CAPES AND FIGHT CRIME?
OUR CULTURE HAS BEEN STAGNATING FOR DECADES, ROUGHLY SINCE THE ERADICATION OF RACISM.
MY THEORY IS THAT THE TWO ARE CONNECTED. THAT HUMANS [redacted] A SOURCE OF NEO-TRIBAL TENSION TO PRODUCE THE COMPETITIVENESS TO --
SCREW YOUR THEORY!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOU OWE ME A FAVOR?
I'M CALLING IT IN NOW... WALK AWAY AND FORGET THIS ENTIRE SUBJECT.
IT BITES RATS, AND I DON'T GIVE A RIP --
I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
FIGURE THAT MAKES US EVEN.
GR 33 # -- JOEY

YOU WEREN'T ASKED TO INTERFERE. MY SECURITY MEASURES ARE QUITE ADEQUATE.
THE DEBT REMAINS UNPAID.
YEAH? WE'LL SEE JUST HOW SECURE YOU ARE...
DEFENSE CONDITION: DROP ACOUSTICAL DAMPING FIELDS; ACTIVATE BEHAVIORAL-MODIFICATION HARMONIC DELTA-SIX.
BLACK NOISE.
SOUND SYSTEM SCREAMS LIKE FEEDBACK AND BROKEN GLASS --
-- PUSHING SOME KINDA MONKEY-BRAIN INSTINCT BUTTON --
-- AND THE CLUB'S CROWD GOES WILD...

ELSEWHERE...
I HATE THIS SPOOK-SHOW SCRAP, KABAL.
CAN'T YOU EVER DO BIZ SOME-PLACE PEOPLE CAN SIT AND HAVE A SHOCKIN' DRINK?
PARANOIA ALWAYS WAS KABAL'S FAVORITE HOBBY.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM A GUY WHO THINKS [redacted] IS AN ALCHEMAX PLOT --
-- AND THAT [redacted] NYPD IS SECRETLY PRODUCED BY BUG-EYED BTS AS P.R.?
BOTH ARE WELL-DOCUMENTED CONSPIRACIES, ICE 9.
IGNORE THE [redacted] AT YOUR OWN PERIL.
IN ANY EVENT, HOWEVER MUCH YOU MIGHT MOCK MY PRAGMATISM --
-- NEITHER YOU NOR NEURODANCER WOULD BE HERE WERE IT NOT FOR MY REPUTATION FOR DISCRETION.

ZZSHFP
WARP ANGEL.
VERY GOOD. WE AWAIT ONLY ONE MORE.
WAITIN'S OVER, THEN.
THE PARTIES I REPRESENT REQUIRE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY GROUP OF AGENTS FOR CERTAIN COVERT OPERATIONS.
OPERATIONS WHICH MUST BE HANDLED CAREFULLY, DELICATELY, AND ABOVE ALL --
ALL RIGHT, KABAL. YOU CALLED, [redacted]
ARE YOU GOING TO TALK BIZ, OR WHAT?
CODA. EXCELLENT.

"— QUIETLY."
DON'T JAM WITH ME BITHEADS!
KTHRV RRRR
I'LL CUT MY WAY THROUGH, IF I HAFTA ..
.. YOU VIP?!

I'LL --
THEY... DIDN'T MEAN...
JUST CHARGED INTO THE SAW...
ZOMBIES... ALL THEY ARE, NOW. THANKS TO --
SYNERGY!
I'M COMING FOR YOU!!
AND NOTHING'S --
-- GONNA --
-- STOP --
-- ME!

MAKE 'EM BACK OFF --
-- OR I'M THROWIN' YOU TO THEM.
IN PIECES.
DEACTIVATE DEFENSIVE HARMONICS.
BROADCAST PACIFICATION SUBLIMINAL ALPHA-2.
I'M TAKIN' YOU IN.
THIS WHOLE OPERATION OF YOURS IS HISTORY.
YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, DON'T YOU?
WE HAD A DEAL, AND YOU RENEGED.
YOUR WORD ON THE STREET IS GOING TO BE WORTHLESS FROM NOW ON.
WRECK YOU, JACK.
WE'RE GOIN' DOWNTOWN.

SHIELD HQ...
BOOM TIM.
NARCO-TRAFFICKING... RACKETEERING... DISTURBING THE PEACE...
... AND BEING AN ALL-AROUND PIECE OF HUMAN SEWAGE.
I'M NOT GOING TO FORGET THIS.
MESSAGE RECEIVED, JERKWEED.
AND WHEN YOU GET A SEC, YOU CAN BYTE ME.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, "MARSHAL". NO NEED TO HANG ABOUT.
NONE... AT... ALL.
YEAH?
FIGURE I'LL START WOMAYING IN FIFTEEN TO TWENTY...
OUR BUSINESS IS FAR FROM OVER, YOU AND I...

KNEW THE DEAL WHEN I CAME TO *SHIELD*. *NOTHING* I DO'S *EVER* GONNA MAKE A DIFF WITH *THEM*.
FAR AS *THEY'RE* CONCERNED, I'M *NEVER* GONNA BE MORE THAN *UPPITY DOWNRAMP SCUM*.
BUT... NOT HERE... IN *LITTLE CALCUTTA*...
I *REMEMBER* BEING ON THE *OTHER* SIDE OF THOSE EXPRESSIONS...
MOMMY... DON LET THE BAD MAN GEMME...
I *KNOW* WHAT THEY SEE WHEN THEY *LOOM* AT ME...
...JUST ANOTHER *STINKING BLACKBOOT*.
PFTSPLT
JAMMIT.
HOW'D THE WORD ABOUT SYNERGY GET OUT SO *FAST*..?

CYBERSPACE.
VIDEO FEED:
PUBLIC SECURICAM #1723
WORD TRAVELS FAST IN THIS TOWN, DON'T IT "MARSHAL"?
'SPECIALLY WHEN IT'S GOT SOMEONE TO HELP SPREAD IT AROUND.
YOU GETTIN' A TASTE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE MAN, RATBITE?
HE HEHEHE HEE
HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
'CUZ IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING...
GLARE --
next HOMECOMING

MACHINE LANGUAGE

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Off With His Head

Today's guest editorial is penned by Mr. Len Kaminski, who faxed the plot to next issue to Castle Doom with the following note attached:

"Cheer up, man. Don't you realize we've got everything to live for?! We've got the Sci-Fi Channel now, and we can watch continuous episodes of 'Quantum Leap' and 'Misfits of Science'...twenty-four hours a day!

I demand that you shoot me now."

How do you feel about "The Powers of Matthew Star," Len?

Dear Machine Language,

GHOST RIDER #12: the cover says it all.

Anyway, it's been a year since the launch of this series and you guys have not let me down once. I think this is one of Marvel's best titles and I hope more people discover it soon. (Unfortunately, a lot of people are turned off by a Ghost Rider in 2099.)

Len Kaminski is one of the coolest writers I've seen so far. His depiction of a future gone mad is pretty darn scary, but I still love it. I hope he never leaves this book. Some of the artists already have, such as Chris Bachalo, Mark Buckingham and Kyle Holtz, but all have complemented Len's writing perfectly. Once again, they have created a dark and disturbing future, the stuff from which nightmares are made. It's a lot of fun to look at. So is the nasty coloring by Heroic Age. Though the book is done on plain old newsprint, Christie Scheele's colors are still kept bright and vibrant. Heck, I even enjoy Richard Starkings' lettering!

Meanwhile, Ghost Rider himself is a character that I really like. He's a confused youth whose world has been shattered by the acquisition of super powers. I know it sounds weird, but Zero Cochrane is a lot like Peter Parker. Like the early Peter Parker, he hasn't yet learned about power and responsibility, so he's using his new powers more for himself than for the good of society. It's also interesting to note that early in his career, Peter Parker met Dr. Doom, who tried to get Peter to join him.

Anyhow, I hope next year is as good as this one was, or even better. I'm hoping to see a Ghost Rider annual and maybe some more guest appearances.

Adam Frey
Southampton, PA

Adam, your comparisons are interesting. Peter Parker and Kenshiro Cochrane have chosen divergent paths...and it'll be interesting to see if GR follows Spidey's footprints or rejects 'em entirely!

Dear Machine Language,

Tell me it isn't true! Kyle Hotz is leaving!? Where's he gonna go next? Is he going to be doing Marvel work or going to the Ultraverse? Please tell me.

I heard that you were getting someone called Ashley Wood starting in GR #15; he better be good because he has big shoes to fill. Anyway, I trust you guys would find a great artist, so until you don't Make Mine Marvel 2099.

Hamish M. Ogilvey
Carrara QLD
Australia

Man, you must really be connected to the Australian grapevine there! Or, at least, connected to the Net, where Len Kaminski is raving about how cool the book looks! Your fellow countryman, Ashley Wood is indeed drawing this book monthly, and after seeing two issues of his work, Hamish, we can safely say that Ashley's more than a fill in replacement for Kyle...who by the way, will be doing some work in the Ultraverse!

Dear Machine Language,

Having just finished reading issue #13, the changes are already apparent. The glossy paper looks great, Christie's coloring even better, and Len's dialogue crisper. My only disappointment was not seeing Ashley Wood's artwork right away. I enjoyed Graham Higgins' stuff a lot, but I'm familiar with Ashley's style and I know that it is going to be just perfect for this book. And let me add that Graham did a fine job filling in, but I don't think his style is exactly right for this book. I will say, however, that his wonderful knack at storytelling made issue 13 one of the most readable issues of GR in some time. Since Bachalo, actually.

In any event, I am eagerly awaiting issue 15 since that is the issue I've been told starts Ashley's run. You guys couldn't have made a better choice. Things are already looking better in Transverse City and Doomrs just got here.

Craig Jackson
Seattle, WA

Now that you've gotten your dose of Ashley's artwork two months in a row, I'm sure you'll be as pleased as we are. We'd also especially like to thank Mr. Higgins for doing a wonderful job here and in the Halloween Jack solo story in the first X-MEN 2099 SPECIAL!

Dear Machine Language,

Wow, issue #13 looked great! I can't say enough about Graham Higgins' artwork! It took me awhile, but after finishing reading the story and then flipping through it again, I began to really appreciate his funky style. Sure, it may not be the perfect take on Ghostie, but it sure was fun! The clarity reminded me of Bachalo's early work on the book and it was a nice change of pace from Kyle Hotz's angular style which I wasn't a big fan of. I hear that issue #15 is the beginning of new regular penciller Ashley Wood's run on the book. I hope you guys have better luck keeping one artist around. GR seems to have trouble doing that. In any event, it was fun to see you guys playing with the style a bit, and for a few issues I think it worked.

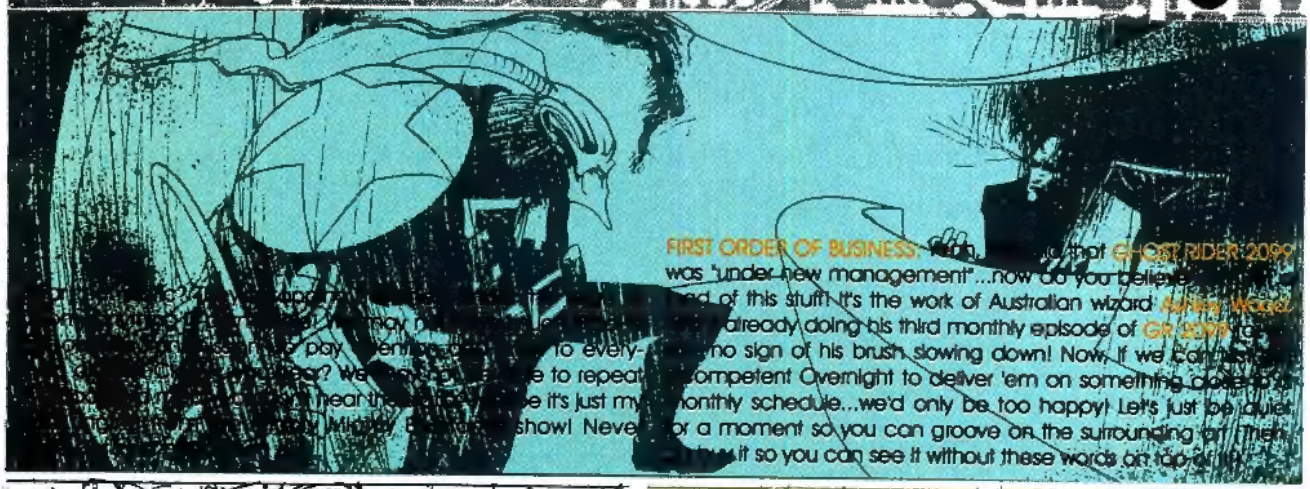
Keith Breitschneider
New York, NY

Glad to hear you enjoyed Graham's version of GR, Keith. We hope to keep Ashley around forever, and we mean forever! Incompetent Overnight willing.

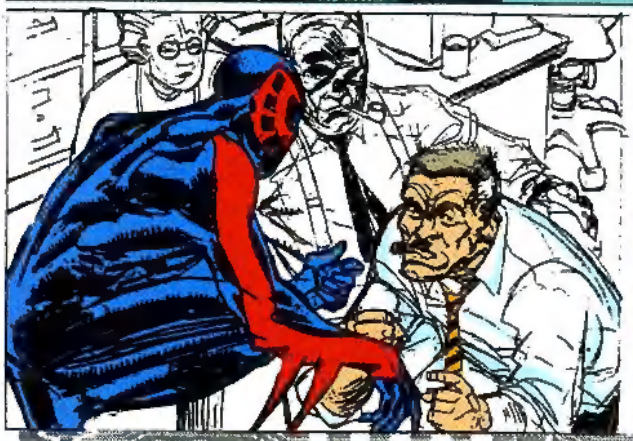
Next Issue

You've seen Transverse City...now get a load of Thrillsville! Heartbreaker returns...and so does a guy whose name begins with a "Z". It's all in "Prodigal Son!"

2099 BITMAPPED REALITY BYTES



FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Yeah, [illegible] that GHOST RIDER 2099 was "under new management"...now do you believe [illegible] kind of this stuff! It's the work of Australian wizard [illegible] already doing his third monthly episode of GR 2099 [illegible] no sign of his brush slowing down! Now, if we [illegible] competent Overnight to deliver 'em on something [illegible] monthly schedule...we'd only be too happy! Let's just be [illegible] for a moment so you can groove on the surrounding art, then [illegible] it so you can see it without these words on top of it!



SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:
Pop quiz time: what's wrong with this picture? Can you identify the individuals in these panels. Yes, that is J. Jonah Jameson at his cigar-chomping crankiest. But that's no spider-drone with him, and it sure ain't Venom...Yeah, well, there's no point in keeping it a secret any longer...that's our own Miguel O'Hara behind that mask...and you are looking at the real (as in not virtual") Daily Bugle. This no-through time is coming to you courtesy of Peter David and Rick Leonardi. And as the man said as he was painting the Sistine Chapel..."It'll be ready when it's ready!"

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

SPIDER-MAN 2099 A.D. # 34:
"Mr. O'Hara Goes to Washington" when he gets caught in the web of DOOM!

HULK 2099 A.D. #9:
Penultimate issue! Adonal! The Golden One! The Locusts! Draco! Doom! And a big green guy!

RAVAGE 2099 A.D. #33:
Ultimate issue! Yes, we're killing him! Wait'll you see how!

GHOST RIDER 2099 A.D. #16:
Heartbreaker's back...and she brought enough friends for everybody! Plus...more of the Undernet!

X-MEN 2099 A.D. #23:
"Junkpile, Agent of SHIELD!" Plus, the gang meet Morphine Somers, Doom's main mutant!

DOOM 2099 A.D. #32:
"Rise!" This issue must be seen to be believed! The title refers not merely to Doom...but to the launching of his adversary...Herod!

THE PUNISHER 2099 A.D. #31:
While Jake Gallows has been tapped to head SHIELD by Doom, Matt Axel creates a robot Punisher!

More 2099 STUFF TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

The Hildebrandt Brothers X-MEN 2099 bookshelf edition! Also...what is 2099 A.D. APOCALYPSE? You'll find out! Also, it's time to campaign for the character you'd most like to see get his or her own book! What are you waiting for! Finally, the "Out of My Head" contest results!

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:
Who says we don't listen to the mail? Here he is, the most eagerly requested, demanded and petitioned for character of all! It's VENOM 2099, and you're staring at a cover by Rick Leonardi! By the by, the third most eagerly requested etc. is on the cover of DOOM 2099 #33. As for the second...maybe someday...